

PROPOSALS FOR A FUND OF A

Hundred and Fifty Thousand
Pounds *per Annum*.

The First Fifty Thousand Pounds *per Annum* of which,
is Proposed to be raised by and from a Real Im-
provement of the RIGHTS and PREROGATIVE
of the CROWN.

The other Hundred Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, to
make up the said *Fund*, is proposed to be Raised
by such, who before they pay it, will be gainers,
in happening to be the Persons charged herewith,
and therefore may with more reason afford to
pay it, and think it no Burden for being so
Charged.

*Most Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the KINGS
Most Excellent Majesty, and both Houses of Parliament.*

By THOMAS HOUGHTON.

Lime-street, December the 4th. 1694.

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PROPOSALS

FOR A

FUND

Of a Hundred and Fifty Thousand
Pounds *per Annum.* &c.



HAT His Majesty would be Graciously Pleased, to give, or cause it to be given in Charge, through all his Kingdoms of *England, Scotland, Ireland,* and Domini- on of *Wales* : That the Laws be exact- ly observed, and put in Execution, a- gainst all *Felons and Criminals* whatsoe- ver; and that all such as shall be Con- victed by due course of Law (*Murder and Cases of Life only excepted*) be by His Majesty spared, and their Lives Granted them upon these Conditions, *Viz.*

That they and every of them, do and perform Seven Years Ser- vice to, and for the *Managers, Patentees,* or their *Assigns,* or to and for such as shall Raise Money for the King upon this *Fund* ; which Service to be done, either at *Sea* or *Land,* on this side or beyond *Sea,* as the *Managers, Purchasers,* or *Owners* of them think fit, and shall have occasion to use them.

Or that these *Felons and Criminals,* may Fine off this Seven Years Service, at such *Rates and Prices* as their *Quality, Crimes,* and other circumstances may merit or require. And that none be admitted to pay less than a Ten Pounds Fine, but as much higher as the

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Managers shall think their Crimes may deserve ; and that as often as any *Felons*, and *Criminals* are committed, or such as lye for any *Crime*, or *Accusation* (*Murder, and Cases of Life only excepted*) That all such and every of them, that do confess, and own themselves to be Guilty, of what they shall be accused of, or stand Charged with, may have Liberty, and be admitted to Fine off their Seven Years Service, without coming to a *Trial*, at such Prices as they and the *Managers* can agree of ; they finding good *Security*, & giving *Bond* for their honest & peaceable Living, afterwards, by which means, if the *Felons* or *Criminals*, renew their Faults, there will be Fresh *Fines*, and Forfeited *Bonds*, and the greater *Fines* paid, in Regard they come not to be exposed to a *Trial*.

That the *Felons* and *Criminals* in *England*, *Scotland*, *Ireland*, and *Wales*, are at least Four Thousand Persons per *Annum*, which Fined off at Ten Pounds a *Head*, Raiseth Forty Thousand Pound a Year ; and considering that, a great number of these, will be able to Pay greater *Fines*, (*Viz.*) Some from a Hundred, to a Thousand Pounds a peice, and more : You may very well conclude, that Fifty Thousand Pounds will be Yearly raised by them, in regard there will be more *Fines* paid at and above Twenty Pounds a *Head*, than at Ten.

That all such who are not willing, or are unable to pay their *Fines*, be Sold, and Transported, to *Africa*, *America*, *East-India*, or committed to any other Service, by *Sea*, or *Land*, for the full Time and Term of *Seven Years* : and that the *Purchaser* pay after the Rate of Ten Pound a *Head*, for their Seven Years Service ; and no less, but as much more as the *Managers* can get, or they may deserve.

That a *Mark* be put in the *Cheek* of all such as are Transported, to distinguish them from other People ; and if any *Master* of a *Ship*, shall bring any of them back, or remove them to any other place, before they have served their *Seven Years*, without a *Warrant* from their *Master*, or the *Governour* of the place signifying the same, that such *Ship* and *Cargoe* shall be Forfeited to the *Managers*,

nagers, and the *Master* Fined a Thousand Pounds, to be paid to the said *Managers*, or their *Assigns* : And when any of them have served the full Time and Term of Seven Years, that all such may be discharged from their Service, and made Free, with full power and liberty, to use all endeavours for the good of themselves, as any other of the *Kings* Subjects hath, or can have.

That an Office be set up here for the *Management* of these affairs, and that his Majesty be Addressed that the same may be done in *Ireland*, and *Scotland*, with full power given to the *Managers*, to agree for, and to remit the *Fines* as aforesaid, whereby many *Felons* and *Criminals*, will be brought to raise great Sums Yearly, and the Nation Rid of *Rogues*, or their *Purses* Punished for their Roguery. For if you please to consider, the hanging of them is a great loss to the Nation several ways too long to be here inserted, when as the preservation of their Lives, this way, doth not only produce a present profit, but the sending them abroad will also increase the power and strength of the *English* in Forreign Parts, and will occasion a greater expence, and demand of the *English* Manufactures to be sent abroad, whereby Trade would be encreased, Forreign Places strengthened, Present Mony raised, their Owners abroad enriched, and they themselves preserved.

And as an Addition to make up the said *Fund*, I propose that the same *Managers* may have full power given them, to treat and agree with, any person or persons, that will undertake and Contract, for the Coynage of Copper or *Brass* Money, in any or all the following Colonies of *America*, (*Viz.*)

Newfound-Land.	{	Carolina.	{	St. Christophers.
New-England.		Bermudas.		Barbadoes.
New-York.		Monferrat.		Jamaica.
Pensilvania.		Dominica.		St. Hellena.
New Jersey.		Antego.		
Mary-Land.		Mevis.		

Or in any part of *East-India*, or *Africa*, where the *English* have any Colonies ; for it would be no difficult thing, to perswade

the Natives to take *Brass* or *Copper* Money, in some of these places, provided, the *English* do satisfy them they will take it again, for any *English* Commodities, and deal faithfully with them, and do so ; however, the *English*, and all *Europeans*, may use it amongst themselves, and promote it amongst the Natives, in all places as much as they can.

All which I humbly submit to the consideration of this present Parliament, and hope You will Address the KINGS Most Excellent Majesty, for what is to be Granted on His part, and also, that You, in Your Great Wisdom, will Ratifie, Confirm, and Establish, all things necessary to be done on Yours ; which is, what offers at present upon this Subject, for Improving the Rights and Prerogative of the Crown, Fifty Thousand Pounds *per Annum*.

For Raising the Hundred Thousand Pounds per Annum, to make up the said Fund ;

I Propose, That all and every *Heir*, *Heiress*, and *Co-Heirs*, *Executor*, and *Executrix*, *Administrator*, and *Administratrix*, and every of them, together with all Legatees, that shall happen so to be, unto any Person or Persons, Dying after the 26th of *March*, 1695, that they and every of them, Pay one Twentieth Part to the *King*, of what shall descend, or be given to them by the Deceased, or of what He, or She Lived, Seized of, or was possessed of, any time in Three Months last before his or her death, and shall not be publickly and well known to be sold, and conveyed for a valuable consideration, by a good conveyance, under Hand and Seal, with sufficient Witness, done and Executed according to Law ; and such a Conveyance as shall be free from all Suspicion, and Colour of Fraud, to defeat the Payment hereof ; the Just Debts & Funeral Expences, of the Deceased, being first paid.

And that every *Heir*, *Heiress*, and *Co-Heir*, *Executor* and *Executrix*, *Administrator*, and *Administratrix*, or some of them, shall within twenty days time, next after the death of the Deceased, make
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and give in, a true Inventory and Appraisement, of the whole Effects, Goods and Chattels, Estates Real, and Personal, of the Deceased, unto the next Justice of the Peace, or unto the Vicar or Minister of the Parish where the Deceased Dyed, and make Oath of the same to be true; which Appraisement the Justice of the Peace, Vicar or Minister, shall return in twenty days time next, after Oath so made, into Their Majesties Exchequer, or to the *Managers* of this affair, or to such as shall be appointed for the Receipt hereof. And if any *Heir, Heiress, Co-Heir, Executor Executrix, Administrator or Administratrix*, neglect or refuse, to make such Inventory or Appraisement, and to make Oath for the Truth thereof, and return it as aforesaid, every one so failing, to pay one Tenth Part to Their Majesties, of what shall Descend, Fall, or be given to them, or come into their Possession by the Death of the Deceased.

For if You Please to Consider, The Estates which descend and devolve to and upon Successors, by the death of their Predecessors, in England and Wales, is Yearly, and every Year above Three Millions per Annum, so that one twentieth part will fully answer, and raise a Hundred Thousand Pounds per Annum, which makes up the Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds per Annum, as above proposed for a Fund; and for a further supply, I propose as Followeth.

That *Proclamation and Publick notice* be given, through *England and Wales*, That all and every person or persons, who have any profitable Employment, Commission, or Office, dependent on the *Crown or Kings* Business, for which they receive a Sallery, and are not exposed to the danger of the Wars, nor peril of the Seas; That they and every of them return their Names, and places of abode, into the Exchequer, or to the *Managers* hereof, on or before the 26th Day of *March, 1695*, upon pain of being suspended from such their Office, and Employ, with an account of what their Yearly Salleries are, and that they make Oath thereof, before the next Justice of the Peace, that the same account is within Five Pounds at a Hundred per Annum Sallery, to the best of their knowledge true, and so proportionably.

That

That all such persons do Yearly pay, during Your Pleasure, one Months Sallery to the King, for continuation Money in His Service. And that all such new Commissioners, Officers, and Servants as aforesaid, that shall enter into any such Station, Office, or Employ, after the 26th day of March 1695, pay the like proportion of one Months Sallery, at their Entrance, for Induction Money.

As also that all persons exercising, or possessing, any Ecclesiastical Benefice, Office, Function, or Employ, worth Fifty Pounds per Annum, or upwards, Pay the same, at such times and places, and to such persons, as You in your great Wisdom, shall think fit to appoint: With this Proviso, That all Bishops, and Judges, sitting in the House of Lords, and all such Members of the House of Commons, as are Commissioners in any Branch of the Kings Business, be free and exempted from this Tax, or Months Imposition, for their Attendance and Service they make the Nation, in both Houses of Parliament: Which Money being added to that before, will supply the Fund, Proposed, if either of the two former Branches should want in their proportions.

To Conclude, for answer to such Objections as shall be made against any of the beforementioned Payments, I shall not enlarge, but in short say, it is manifest that all Felons and Criminals, that are Guilty, whether Convicted by Law or no, if they had their deserts, ought to be punished, according to the merit of their Crimes, and it appears plainly, by daily experience, that the taking away the Lives of such Offenders, hath not, nor will not, be a sufficient warning to discourage others; therefore it seems more reasonable, that some method should be used to raise a benefit by them, for the use of the King, at whose Mercy their Lives are, rather than to continue the Old way to Hang and Destroy them: and for themselves, they have nothing to say, knowing if they transgress and be taken, they must be punished by Loss of Life, Body or Estate, as the Law now directs; but if this method

rhod above proposed, be put in practice, many Offenders after they have paid and fined off their Faults, may reclaim, and become better, and in time prove an industrious and serviceable people, both at home and abroad, and live to produce a better Issue, so that if His Majesty, and You think fit, and Please to make it so, it may be better to raise Fifty Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, this way, then to destroy them, and yet continue to lose all.

For the second sort of persons, which I propose to raise the Hundred Thousand Pound *per Annum*, or the greatest part of it, being the *Heirs, Heiresses, Co-Heirs, Executors, and Administrators*, of Deceased Persons, they will have no reason to complain, or grumble, at the Payment of one twentieth part of the whole to the *King*, in regard there is Nineteen times as much more fallen, descended, or given to them, (and many times unexpectedly procured,) without any trouble, care, or cost of theirs, for where the Deceased leaves but little, they pay the less, and where they leave more, 'twill be the better for them. And for the Donors, or Dying Persons from whose Substance this must arise and proceed, they need not Grieve or Repine, before their Death, at their consenting to give it, for whilst they Live they pay nothing, and when they are Dead they will want no more, therefore may more freely comply with this, to support an Industrious and Indefatigable PRINCE, in a Chargeable War.

For the Third sort of persons who are proposed to be charged with raising a part of this *Fund*; they are such, who have Commissions and profitable employments under the *King*, and this Government, and therefore being gainers thereby, have no manner of cause or pretence to be excused; for 'tis but reasonable they should Assist that, which Supports or Maintains them, &c.

Having

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Having thus proposed, and reasonably proved, the raising of a Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pound *per Annum*, for a *Fund*, in all Humility, and most Dutiful Submission, I leave the further Consideration thereof, to the Great Wisdom and Prudence, of both Houses of Parliament, and Beg leave to Subscribe, and Remain,

Your Most Humble,
and Most Obedient,
Servant.

Thomas Houghton.



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